

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 IO-13 CPR-01 /065 W

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O R 091545Z SEP 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6332

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1780

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG

REF: PEKING 1779

1. THE CCP CENTRAL COMITTEE - NPC STANDING COMMITTEE-
STATE COUNCIL - CCP MILITARY COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAO
NVSE-TUNG'S DEATH PREDICTABLY PICTURES HIM AS THE GREAT LEADER
PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VICTORIES OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION,
WHOSE LINE MUST CONTINUE TO GUIDE THE COUNTRY.

2. PRIDE OF PLACE IS GIVEN TO HIS VICTORIES OVER IDEOLOGICAL OPPONENT
S

WITHIN THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY, RANGING FROM EARLY
CCP LEADER CHEN TU-HSIU TO TENG HSIAO-PING. COUNTERING THIS
REMINDER OF THE PARTY'S HISTORY OF SPLITS, HOWEVER, IS A STRONG
APPEAL TO CLOSE RANKS NOW. THE MESSAGE FEATURES A CALL
TO "STRENGTHEN THE CENTRALIZED LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY, RESOLUTELY
UPHOLD THE UNITY AND UNIFICATION OF THE PARTY AND CLOSELY RALLY
ROUND THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE." THIS APPEAL IS HIGHLIGHTED
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BY FUNERAL COMMITTEE THAT TAKES IN ENTIRE CENTRAL

COMMITTEE, INCLUDING LEADING PROVINCIAL FIGURES
WHO HAVE BEEN UNDER POSTER ATTACK FOR THEIR ALLEGED
SUPPORT OF TENG HSIAO-PING.

3. APPARENTLY IN AN EFFORT TO EMPHASIZE CONTINUITY OF POLICY THE
ANNOUNCEMENT REPEATS ALL THE MAJOR SLOGANS CONCERNING STRUGGLE,
SELF-RELIANCE, SUPPORT FOR NEW SOCIALIST THINGS, ETC. IN THE
MILITARY SECTION IT QUOTERATES IN STANDARD TERMS DETERMINATION
TO LIBERATE TAIWAN. THE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION CALLS FOR CON-
TINUATION OF CHAIRMAN MAO'S REVOLUTIONARY LINE AND POLICIES IN FOREIG
N
AFFAIRS (USUALLY TAKEN TO DENOTE, OR TO INCLUDE CHINA'S OPENING
TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE EARLY 70'S).

4. WE EXPECT THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP TO DO THEIR UTMOST FOR
SOME TIME TO DEMONSTRATE UNITY, AN AIM ALREADY MANIFEST AT THE
BIG MEETING IN PEKING SEPTEMBER 1. THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT NOW
THAT KNOWLEDGE MAO'S DEATH WAS IMMINENT WAS A MAJOR IMPETUS
FOR HOLDING THE MEETING AND FOR THE STRONG STRESS ON UNITY IN
THE RECENT PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIALS. THE FUNERAL OBSERVANCES,
PARTICULARLY THE RALLY TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 18 IN TIEN AN MEN SQUARE,
WILL GIVE NATIONAL LEADERS FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW THEY ARE
UNITED, AND HUA KUO-FENG FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY THE ROLE OF NEW
MAN IN CHARGE. SUCH SURFACE UNITY WILL BE NECESSARY TO PREVENT
REPETITION OF THE TYPE OF INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED IN PEKING AND
ELSEWHERE LAST APRIL. THERE ARE OF COURSE ALSO EXTERNAL CON-
SIDERATIONS--ESPECIALLY THE FEAR OF SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO EXPLOIT
ANY SIGNS OF DIVISION. WE THINK THE EFFORT TO KEEP UP THE APPEARANCE
OF UNITY IS LIKELY TO LAST WELL BEYOND THE OFFICIAL MOURNING PERIOD.
JUST HOW LONG, HOWEVER, WILL DEPEND ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH
CONCRETE SUCCESSION ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON, SOMETHING
WHICH WILL PROBABLY BECOME APPARENT ONLY GRADUALLY AFTER THE FUNERAL
OBSERVANCES ARE COMPLETED.
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